



Hilderthorpe PRIMARY SCHOOL

Aiming High - Reaching Higher

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10th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Many of you will be aware of a story in the media that says schools can close early for Christmas. Whilst this is technically correct, the detail behind this is that it simply means that schools are authorised to move a training day from later in the year.

We have consulted as a governing body and with other schools in the town and considered this proposal very carefully. As a result of this consultation, our school has decided to honour the term dates already published so that Friday 18th December will continue to be the last day of term. Whilst we accept that not everyone will be in agreement, the reasons for this decision include:

- > A good number of families would experience difficulties in arranging childcare at such short notice
- > Some staff and parents will have already made plans based on the published dates
- > Some schools do not close until the 21st, but in our particular case we do already have 7 days clear before Christmas
- > Keeping Monday 4th January and 12th April as training days ensures we can proceed with the quality training that is already planned for all of our staff in school
- > There are already events and activities planned for the 18th December in school

Above all, we are seeking to make the Christmas period a happy and calm one for the children who attend our school. Experience tells us that making changes at short notice often creates stress and anxiety, and I'm sure that you would agree that we could well do without any more of that! As always, the safety and care of your children is always our primary concern and we thank you for supporting us with these decisions.

We are very much looking forward to the Christmas events that are planned in school next week and look forward to celebrating this special time of year with your children. It may be slightly different this year, but we will do our best to ensure it is still a magical time of year for your children.

Kind regards.

Mrs S Hall
Headteacher

